

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
PLANNING BOARD

MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. SEATING OF ALTERNATE MEMBER

Mr. Cunha was seated as a voting member.

2. APPROVAL OF PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

A. Minutes of August 10, 2010 (enclosed)

On a motion from Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Batty, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2010 into the official record of the Board.

B. Minutes of September 29, 2010 (enclosed)

On a motion from Mr. Batty, seconded by Mr. Cole, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the September 29, 2010 into the official record of the Board.

C. Minutes of December 13, 2010 (enclosed)

On a motion from Ms. Moravec, seconded by Mr. Cole, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2010 into the official record of the Board.

D. Minutes of October 27, 2010 (to be submitted)

3. APPROVAL OF PLANNING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

There was no new correspondence.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Content of Planning Board Minutes

Planning Director Boyle noted that Planning Board minutes have traditionally been lengthy and close to being a transcript of the meetings, and suggested that shortening the minutes would make them easier to read, and would keep them more in line with minutes of the City Council and most of the City Commissions. Director Boyle requested formal direction from the Board on this matter.

Chairman Robinson noted that meeting minutes are required to have four components: The date, time and location of the meeting; members of the public body, either present or absent; the record of voting at the meeting; and any other information that the public body asks to be included in the minutes. Currently, Planning Board

meetings are digitally recorded. These digital files can be stored on a computer or on CD's. There was no formal motion, but the Board recommended the streamlining of meeting minutes, given the availability of back-up audio files.

B. Revised Draft of the 2011 Meetings (enclosed)

On a motion from Ms. Moravec, seconded by Mr. Cole, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised schedule of Planning Board meetings for 2011.

C. Request for Recommendation to City Council Re: "Strategy for Reducing Risk from Natural Hazards in East Providence" (2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan Final Draft) (enclosure)

Wayne Barnes addressed the Board as to the purpose of this document, hereafter referred to as the Hazard Mitigation Plan or "the Plan". Local governments must have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to qualify for State technical assistance and to prioritize funding of potential projects; to qualify for various FEMA grant opportunities; and to maintain participation in FEMA's National Flood Insurance program, with over 300 policies in affect within East Providence. Mr. Barnes briefly described the 2010 Plan update process and the changes that were made to the previous plan, adopted by the City Council in 2005. He also outlined the Plan evaluation process and noted that the next required update will be

due five years after Council adoption of this update. FEMA has approved the 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan update pending City Council adoption, and therefore Mr. Barnes is requesting a recommendation from the Planning Board to the City Council regarding their adoption of the Plan, and asked for any questions from the Board. There were no questions at this time.

On a motion from Ms. Moravec, Seconded by Mr. Batty, the Board voted to recommend to the City Council that the Council adopt the “2010 Strategy for Reducing Risk from Natural Hazards in East Providence”.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Batty Aye

Ms. Moravec Aye

Mr. Cole Aye

Mr. Cunha Aye

Chairman Robinson Aye

The chair congratulated Mr. Barnes on behalf of the Board for an outstanding job on the Plan update.

5. CONTINUED BUSINESS

A. Staff Report

1. Comprehensive Plan - Planning Director Boyle addressed the Board regarding the East Providence Comprehensive Plan Update, noting that Rhode Island Statewide Planning did not approve the plan, with one outstanding issue regarding waterfront development still to be resolved. The Comprehensive plan update has been adopted by the City Council and, as a result, is in full effect. The Planning Department will continue to work with Statewide Planning regarding their Certification of the Plan. Any changes made to our adopted City-adopted Plan update would require a complete new adoption process including Planning Board review, public participation, and City Council adoption.

2. City Council Liaison - Mayor Bruce Rogers has requested a City Council Liaison to the Planning Board. It is expected that a Council member will be designated to perform this function soon.

3. Other Activity – Director Boyle briefed the Board on the ongoing capping project at Forbes Street landfill. She also updated the Board on the status of the Hydroelectric Study for the Ten Mile River, the East Bay Energy Consortium, and the Taunton Avenue Auto Row Study. Regarding the latter item, Board members were invited to participate in the Auto Row Study via an advisory committee of residents and businesses that is being established to brainstorm ideas for reuse of vacant property in that area. A public meeting on this initiative is anticipated in the next few weeks.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Copy of Notice of Decision dated 1/5/2011, Appl. #2010-01 Administrative Subdivision (Final Plan), 3 Allerton Avenue and 2672 Pawtucket Avenue (at Wannamoisett Rd), Owners and Applicants: Joao C. & Eduarda M. Medina, R-3 District, Map 308, Block 11, Lots 7 and 8 (enclosure)

On a motion from Ms. Moravec, seconded by Mr. Cunha, the Board voted unanimously to accept this communication into the record of the Board.

B. Copy of Notice of Decision, Appl. #2009-06, dated 12/14/2010, 864 Waterman Avenue, Owner/Applicant Norman J. & Shirley A. Miranda & Trustee of the Norman J. Miranda Revocable Living Trust, Map 507, Block 2, Parcel 4 (enclosure)

On a motion from Mr. Batty, seconded by Mr. Cunha, the Board voted unanimously to accept this communication into the record of the Board.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT

A. Next Meeting - Thursday, February 24, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Room 306

8. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Moravec, seconded by Mr. Cole, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

G/Planning Board/2011 Minutes/January 10, 2011 Meeting Minutes